

REMARKS

Reconsideration of the above-identified application in view of the present amendment is respectfully requested. Claims 2-4, 10-12, 16, and 17 are amended, claims 1, 5-9, and 15 are canceled, and claims 18-22 are added. Claims 13 and 14 are allowed.

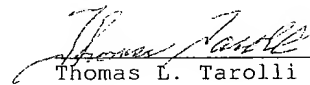
Applicant appreciates the allowance of claims 2 and 3 if rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Accordingly, claims 2 and 3 are amended to include all of the limitations of the base claim and intervening claims. Therefore, claims 2 and 3 are allowable. Claims 10-12, 16, and 17, which are amended to depend from claim 2, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein. New claims 18-22, which depend from claim 3, are allowable as depending from an allowable claim and also for the specific limitations recited therein.

Claim 4 is rewritten in independent form to include all of the limitations of claim 1. Claim 4 is further amended to recite that the bearing has a surface engaging the at least one section of the spoke, and the bearing is configured to transfer steering forces in all directions between the inner and outer parts. Takahara et al. does not disclose or suggest a bearing that has a surface engaging at least one section of a spoke, and that the bearing is configured to transfer steering forces in all directions between inner and outer parts. Therefore, claim 4 is allowable.

Serial No. 09/963,909

In view of the foregoing, it is respectfully requested that the amendment be entered and the application allowed. Please charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment in the fees for this amendment to our Deposit Account No. 20-0090.

Respectfully submitted,


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